

Listing of Claims:

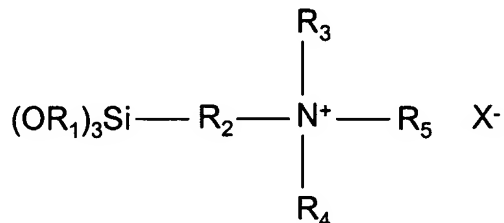
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-24. (Cancelled)

25. (Previously Presented) An antimicrobially-treated composite fabric comprising a nonwoven continuous filament substrate hydraulically entangled with pulp fibers, wherein said pulp fibers comprise between about 60% to about 90% by weight of said composite fabric, and wherein greater than about 90% of the pulp fibers present within the composite fabric are covalently bonded to an organosilicone antimicrobial agent.

26. (Original) An antimicrobially-treated composite fabric as defined in claim 25, wherein said antimicrobial agent is an organosilicone quaternary ammonium compound.

27. (Previously Presented) An antimicrobially-treated composite fabric as defined in claim 26, wherein said organosilicone quaternary ammonium compound has the following structure:



wherein,

R₁ is hydrogen or a C₁-C₈ alkyl group;

R₂ is hydrogen or a C₁-C₈ alkyl group;

R_3 and R_4 are the same or different, and are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and a C_1 - C_4 alkyl group;

R_5 is hydrogen or a C_1 - C_{30} alkyl group; and

X^- is a suitable counterion.

28. (Original) An antimicrobially-treated composite fabric as defined in claim 25, wherein said antimicrobial agent is 3-(trimethoxysilyl)propyloctadecyldimethyl ammonium chloride.

29. (Original) An antimicrobially-treated composite fabric as defined in claim 25, wherein said organosilicone antimicrobial agent comprises between about 0.04% to about 1.0% by weight of said pulp fibers.

30. (Original) An antimicrobially-treated composite fabric as defined in claim 25, wherein said organosilicone antimicrobial agent comprises between about 0.2% to about 0.5% by weight of said pulp fibers.

31. (Original) An antimicrobially-treated composite fabric as defined in claim 25, wherein said continuous filaments are formed by a spunbond process.

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Original) An antimicrobially-treated composite fabric as defined in claim 25, wherein said organosilicone antimicrobial agent comprises between about 0.03% to about 0.8% by weight of said composite fabric.

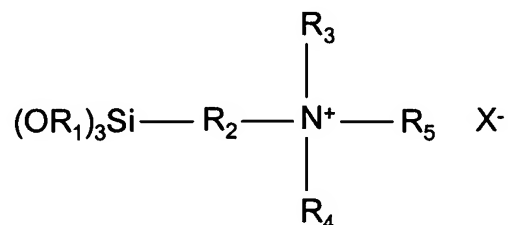
34. (Original) An antimicrobially-treated composite fabric as defined in claim 25, wherein said organosilicone antimicrobial agent comprises between about 0.16% to about 0.4% by weight of said composite fabric.

35. (Cancelled)

36. (Previously Presented) An antimicrobially-treated composite fabric as defined in claim 25, wherein the covalent bond formed between said organosilicone antimicrobial agent and said pulp fibers is a siloxane bond.

37. (Previously Presented) An antimicrobially-treated composite fabric comprising a nonwoven continuous filament substrate hydraulically entangled with pulp fibers, said pulp fibers comprising between about 60% to about 90% by weight of said composite fabric, wherein greater than about 90% of the pulp fibers present within the composite fabric are covalently bonded to an organosilicone quaternary ammonium antimicrobial agent, said organosilicone quaternary ammonium antimicrobial agent comprising between about 0.04% to about 1.0% by weight of said pulp fibers.

38. (Previously Presented) An antimicrobially-treated composite fabric as defined in claim 37, wherein said organosilicone quaternary ammonium antimicrobial agent has the following structure:



wherein,

R₁ is hydrogen or a C₁-C₈ alkyl group;

R₂ is hydrogen or a C₁-C₈ alkyl group;

R₃ and R₄ are the same or different, and are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and a C₁-C₄ alkyl group;

R₅ is hydrogen or a C₁-C₃₀ alkyl group; and

X⁻ is a suitable counterion.

39. (Previously Presented) An antimicrobially-treated composite fabric as defined in claim 37, wherein said organosilicone quaternary ammonium antimicrobial agent is 3-(trimethoxysilyl)propyloctadecyldimethyl ammonium chloride.

40. (Previously Presented) An antimicrobially-treated composite fabric as defined in claim 37, wherein said organosilicone quaternary ammonium antimicrobial agent comprises between about 0.2% to about 0.5% by weight of said pulp fibers.

41. (Previously Presented) An antimicrobially-treated composite fabric as defined in claim 37, wherein said continuous filaments are formed by a spunbond process.

42. (Previously Presented) An antimicrobially-treated composite fabric as defined in claim 37, wherein said organosilicone quaternary ammonium antimicrobial agent comprises between about 0.03% to about 0.8% by weight of said composite fabric.

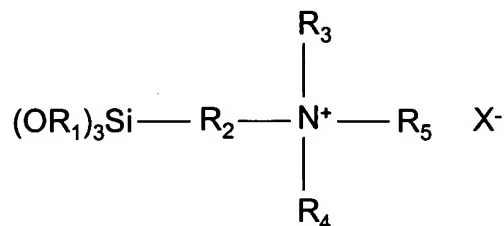
43. (Previously Presented) An antimicrobially-treated composite fabric as defined in claim 37, wherein said organosilicone quaternary ammonium antimicrobial agent comprises between about 0.16% to about 0.4% by weight of said composite fabric.

44. (Cancelled)

45. (Previously Presented) An antimicrobially-treated composite fabric as defined in claim 37, wherein the covalent bond formed between said organosilicone quaternary ammonium antimicrobial agent and said pulp fibers is a siloxane bond.

46. (Previously Presented) An antimicrobially-treated composite fabric comprising a spunbond web hydraulically entangled with pulp fibers, said pulp fibers comprising between about 60% to about 90% by weight of said composite fabric, wherein greater than about 90% of the pulp fibers present within the composite fabric are covalently bonded to an organosilicone quaternary ammonium antimicrobial agent, said organosilicone quaternary ammonium antimicrobial agent comprising between about 0.04% to about 1.0% by weight of said pulp fibers.

47. (Previously Presented) An antimicrobially-treated composite fabric as defined in claim 46, wherein said organosilicone quaternary ammonium antimicrobial agent has the following structure:



wherein,

R₁ is hydrogen or a C₁-C₈ alkyl group;

R₂ is hydrogen or a C₁-C₈ alkyl group;

R₃ and R₄ are the same or different, and are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and a C₁-C₄ alkyl group;

R₅ is hydrogen or a C₁-C₃₀ alkyl group; and

X⁻ is a suitable counterion.

48. (Previously Presented) An antimicrobially-treated composite fabric as defined in claim 46, wherein said organosilicone quaternary ammonium antimicrobial agent is 3-(trimethoxysilyl)propyloctadecyldimethyl ammonium chloride.

49. (Previously Presented) An antimicrobially-treated composite fabric as defined in claim 46, wherein said organosilicone quaternary ammonium antimicrobial agent comprises between about 0.03% to about 0.8% by weight of said composite fabric.

50. (Previously Presented) An antimicrobially-treated composite fabric as defined in claim 46, wherein said organosilicone quaternary ammonium antimicrobial agent comprises between about 0.16% to about 0.4% by weight of said composite fabric.

51. (Cancelled)

52. (Previously Presented) An antimicrobially-treated composite fabric as defined in claim 46, wherein the covalent bond formed between said organosilicone quaternary ammonium antimicrobial agent and said pulp fibers is a siloxane bond.